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SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 1908.

THE CANDIDATES AT CHICAGO.

The "allies" are doing all they possibly can to prevent the conclusions of the National Republican Convention from being determined before it meets. Other candidates besides Mr. Taft have opened headquarters in Chicago, with the design of capturing all, and more than all, that is coming to them.

However slight the chances of any one of them may be to secure the nomination against the prepondering strength of Mr. Taft, there is a promise held out that the proceedings this year will have decidedly more interest than was found in those of the last two Republican conventions. At the first of these, in 1900, no one was considered but McKinley; at the second, in 1904, no one but Roosevelt. In each instance the nomination was by acclamation.

Since 1904 differences have developed among Republicans which go far deeper than mere preferences for particular candidates. The radical nature of the policies advocated and even put in practice by Mr. Roosevelt is the chief cause of these differences. Of such doubtful benefit in their operation seem some of Mr. Roosevelt's recommendations; so marked is their departure from what has been held the proper limits of Federal authority; so far-reaching may be their effect on our business and institutions, that many of the leading men in the party have become alarmed and refuse to follow.

Roughly speaking, it may be said that this sentiment is represented by the "allies," while the exponent of the progressives is Mr. Taft. Both the prospects and the feelings of the reactionaries are best summed up in the reply of Mr. Cannon to an inquiry in regard to his own candidacy: "You can go further and fare worse, and, by God! you will."

This is terse and only partly true. The convention will "go further"; but that it will "fare worse" than in nominating Mr. Cannon is apparently the opinion of only the Illinois delegation.

A BRIDGE TO MANCHESTER.

Mr. Joseph Sadler's questions deserve more than debate, for they imply in a very definite and tangible way the inadequacy of the means of intercommunication between Richmond and Manchester. The present Free Bridge may not be dangerously weak, but it is certainly far from satisfactory, else why are horses prevented from trotting, why are guards stationed along the bridge, and why are cars only allowed to pass each other over the piers?

The Times-Dispatch does not desire extravagance or reckless expenditure by the city government, but there may very well be an economy that is suicidal. To all intents and purposes Richmond and Manchester are one city. They should have every possible facility for dealing with each other. Manchester affords great opportunities for manufacturing and home sites, and Richmond would not be able to maintain its bank clearings or general business if Manchester were to suffer.

If it were a question of adding 20,000 to our population, there could be no doubt as to the interest that would be awakened. This question of a suitable bridge, however, is far more definite, and, therefore, more important, for it means the maintenance and the protection of the avenues between this city and 20,000 inhabitants. Without proper bridges between Richmond and Manchester the cities can never develop as they should. With them the growth and prosperity of each city will be greatly increased.

It would be hard to imagine a more useful endeavor on the part of the Council than to improve the bridges between Richmond and Manchester, and we trust that Mr. Sadler's questions will not prove fruitless.

THE SHOOTING OF DREYFUS.

The inner facts of the Dreyfus case will probably never be known until the generation excited by it has passed away. To the world outside France it has appeared only to be the false conviction of an innocent man and his subsequent rehabilitation. To the people of France, however, there was involved national and race issues which agitated the whole population as only Frenchmen can become agitated. With their usual ability to produce dramatic effects, they so managed the case that a world-wide interest was aroused. Statesmen, soldiers, diplomatists, authors and journalists were drawn or pushed into the controversy. Accusations, duels and riots accompanied the proceedings.

When, after all this convulsion, it was adjudged that Dreyfus was innocent, and he was restored to his rank in the army, it was thought, at least by other than Frenchmen, that the incident was closed. As usual, foreigners were mistaken in this judgment of another race.

The occasion of placing Zola's body in the Pantheon was seized by an army officer named Gregori to make what he called a "protest against Dreyfusism." It took the form of shooting Dreyfus, who was present at the ceremony of canonizing the man who had so warmly espoused his cause. The incident is as surprising as it is deplorable. What the consequences may be it is impossible to predict. As long as Dreyfus lives the possibilities for disturbance would seem to be unlimited. For the present it is only to be observed that Gregori, in his attempted assassination during a ceremony so full of solemnity, has maintained the reputation of his countrymen for theatrical actions.

GEORGIA'S REBUFF TO REFORM.

Whether for himself, personally, or for the policies which he stands for, Hoke Smith's defeat for re-election to the governorship of Georgia is a crushing rebuff. Smith was elected two years ago on a tidal wave of reform. His majority over five opponents was 25,000 votes. He was turned out of office on Thursday, after barely twelve months' occupancy, by 15,000 votes. The loss of 40,000 votes out of an electorate of some 200,000, in so short a space of time, is a striking enough thing in any case. In this case it is peculiarly forcible, for Smith was "entitled" to re-election. A well established precedent in Georgia gives the Governor a second term almost as a matter of course, if he wants it.

Whether the event means that Georgia is decisively weary of reform remains to be seen. Present indications are strongly in that direction. Governor Smith's program has won the hostility of both railroad and liquor interests. Governor-elect Brown is said to be agreeable to both. Brown, in fact, started his campaign with rather direct intimations that he was favorable to the repeal of prohibition. Later he reversed himself, weakly enough, and declared that he would veto any legislative amendments looking to this end. Whatever the sources, it has been evident for some time that his strength was steadily growing. Once his candidacy was greeted by the Smith camp with open derision. The campaign is described by the Atlanta Constitution as "unequaled for bitterness and intensity in the post-bellum political history of Georgia." The possible effect of the result of it upon the liquor situation is distinctly significant; for other communities have interested themselves in prohibition, and Georgia's experience may be typical.

TWO-CENT POSTAGE TO ENGLAND.

Postmaster-General Meyer announces the long expected and desired agreement whereby letter postage between the United States and England will be reduced from 5 to 2 cents. Such an arrangement was bound to come, sooner or later. Cheap postage has won out on its own merits, at one time in the teeth of savage criticism. Rowland Hill's earlier arguments for the penny post were largely derided, but a very few years after his plan was adopted, in 1839, he found himself with a place among the great English reformers. The 5-cent rate among all countries in the Postal Union was adopted by the Lisbon Congress in 1885. This was still in the days when there was one rate for prepaid letters and another for letters C. O. D. In 1710, when the first American post-offices were established, it cost a shilling to send a letter from New York to London.

To establish a 2-cent rate for that service to-day must tighten the bonds between these two great English-speaking countries and effect real and large benefits. The step is in the direction that Cobden argued for so powerfully in his thesis that all trades should be as unrestricted as possible, and that every new facility given to intercommunication meant a higher standard of personal and national welfare, a greater increase of wealth and an advancing civilization. So far as 2-cent postage is concerned, Postmaster-General Meyer is assuredly right in saying that it will help business relations between England and America. But what folly it is to build up an understanding with enlarged possibilities for the exchange of goods, and then render such exchange impossible by maintaining a tariff whose prime object is to keep out competing goods. Postmaster-General Meyer is no doubt a high protectionist, seeing that he is a sturdy Republican, but in extending the scope of cheap postal service he is building for free trade better than he knows.

Travelers returned from the dark Southwest tell us that those giant Bermuda onions, of which we find the Houston Post talking so much nowadays, are the most ferocious vegetables known to science, and positively cannot be tamed unless caught very young. In captivity they usually become sullen and morose, and not rarely turn up their keepers and bite their heads off.

Says the usually accurate Atlanta Georgian: "Richmond's amazing ball team has started south in the percentage column." And this at the moment when our astounding ball-tossers have just pulled off a brilliantly successful dash for the pole.

Colonel Stewart, in the view of the Washington Herald, "knows how to keep his face closed in several different languages." His esteemed commander-in-chief, on the other hand, appears unable to keep his closed in any.

As to the Wright family, Luke E. may be slated for a place in the Cabinet, but Orville and Wilbur are undoubtedly the higher flyers.

The rumor that women's feet are growing larger is received with perfect equanimity in Chicago, where they know that such a thing is impossible.

From what we read of the directoire skirt, we infer that it is altogether too candid in its nature.

A new graft scandal is threatened in Pittsburg, the first, we believe, this week.

Now let Georgia cash in the bets and go out and nurse the peachcron.

Rhymes for To-Day

THE S. G. G.'S.

[Hymned in the old familiar way. Any reader who will put us next to a new method of treating this theme will receive for his trouble a first-class return ticket to Barton Heights.]

HERE come the sweet girly graduates, men,
Tripping along with their speeches—
Ain't they a bunch of deliciousness, then?
Ain't they adorable peaches?
See! There they climb to the platform-place now,
Fresh and as sweet as new butter!
Lovely will be the high thoughtlets, I trow,
Those divine vocals will utter!

There! They have started their clever remarks.
Hark 'ee to that oratory. . . .
Cities should put more investment in parks. . . .
War is a dread thing, and gory. . . .
Browning's insight to an old woman's heart. . . .
England's free-trade views are shifting. . . .
Neo-Platonics in late Congo art. . . .
O, ain't the topics uplifting?

Yet, as I list to the themes so intense
Those sweet young ladies are vaunting,
I have a sudden and curious sense
That there is something that's wanting.
Highbrowed they be and A1 in their looks,
Keen as a case of new knifeys! . . .
Yet I hear nothing of sock-darns or cooks—
How will they pan out as wifeys?

H. S. H.

MERELY JOKING.

Avoiding Talk.

She: "If we appear together so much people will talk about us."

He: "Well, suppose we disappear together."—Pick-Me-Up.

Pat's Little Error.

Hogan: "Phwat became av Pat?"

Grogan: "The poor felly mishtook an auto horn fer a whistle and shtopped wurrk crossing the strate."—Puck.

No Discrimination.

Rustic (to conductor): "Which end of the car do I get off?"

Conductor (politely): "Whichever end you prefer; both ends stop."—Montreal Star.

Making a Record.

"I know a young man very ambitious, who is anxious to make a record for himself. Could you suggest a way?"

"Sure. Why doesn't he get a job with a phonograph company."—Detroit Free Press.

Surplus Paper.

"Have you not sold enough poems this week to paper our parlor, dear?" asked the poet's wife.

"No, dear," was the reply, "but I've had enough manuscripts returned to do it easily enough!"—Yonkers Statesman.

Woman's Way.

Eva (reading novel): "She riveted her eyes."

Dick: "You don't say?"

Eva: "And then she dropped them"——

Dick: "My! My! Just like a woman. She can never nail or rivet anything securely."—Chicago News.

REPLYING TO OURS.

JOHN J. McGUINNESS publishes a memorial poem in the Richmond Times-Dispatch. It seems that the prefix Mc doesn't prevent him from having an attachment for cemeteries.—Houston Post.

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"Where is the lonesomest place on earth?" asks the Richmond Times-Dispatch. "Uncle Joe" Cannon's band wagon is one of the lonesomest.—Washington Herald.

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"Don't be too hard on the trusts," pleads the Richmond Times-Dispatch. "Maybe they never had a mother." But they had and they have. Everybody knows the tariff is the mother of trusts.—Newport News Times-Herald.

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It may become necessary to rig up a special band wagon for the Charleston News and Courier, the Richmond Times-Dispatch and the Nashville American.—Houston Post.

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Speaking of Governor Johnson's political beliefs and expression, the Richmond Times-Dispatch predicts that "when this sort of Democracy comes before the people again they will give it the same welcome that Grover Cleveland received in 1884 and 1902."—Mobile Herald.

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"Don't be too hard on the trusts," pleads the Richmond Times-Dispatch. "Maybe they never had a mother." But they had and have a mother-in-law, old Mrs. Bill Dingley, and she has spoiled 'em to death.—Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

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The Richmond Times-Dispatch is shocked that the Lynchburg News should be "rooting" in its editorial columns for its ball team. This shows how contracted are the views of the Richmond paper; a paper that will not root for its ball team, editorially or otherwise, when it needs "rooting," is a poor stick. The Times-Dispatch is away behind the times.—Greensboro Record.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

Tinsmiths in New Zealand are among the best paid mechanics. They receive £2 10s. a week.

Extremes meet. A house in St. Augustine, built in 1655, has been turned into a garage.—Boston Transcript.

According to statistics quoted by Congressman Cooper, the fatality in Pennsylvania's mines rose from 611 in 1898 to 1,514 in 1908.

The campaign against rats at the London and India docks, Tilbury, has already resulted, dock officials estimate, in the destruction of nearly 30,000 rodents.

Rear-Admiral Joseph Philibert, the French commander in Moroccan waters, has been promoted to the grade of vice-admiral. Rear-Admiral Berryer succeeds him in command of the Moroccan division.

The Emperor of Japan has granted Count Okuma, leader of the Progressive party, $15,000 for the fund of the Waseda University, in recognition of his services in the interest of national education.

Young Cornelius Vanderbilt declares: "The happiest time in my life was when I was wearing overalls in the Baldwin Locomotive Works in Philadelphia one hot summer a few years ago studying locomotive construction."

After several weeks' illness, Captain James E. Cox, eighty-two years old, a veteran of the Confederate Army, died as a result of gangrene poisoning caused by trimming his toe nail. His maternal grandmother was a daughter of Daniel Boone.

Countess Tolstoi is in Moscow supervising the organization of a museum in honor of her illustrious husband. The museum will contain a great mass of letters received by the count, many of them being from America.

As the celebrated British thirst diminishes the British sweet tooth becomes more exacting. Fifty years ago the annual per capita consumption of sugar in the United Kingdom was twenty-nine and a half pounds; now it is nearly 100 pounds.

Criminal records kept in New York county for the last six years show that a trifle more than one-half of the persons charged with crimes are found guilty, while expert opinion is agreed that not two out of 100 are innocent.

The production of lumber, lath and shingles in the United States in 1906 was 37,-466,067 M feet, board measure, against 30,-702,961 in 1905, and 34,127,165 in 1904. The figures cover returns from 21,077 mills in 1906, 11,666 in 1905, and 18,277 in 1904.

Secretary Root has decided on the personnel of the commission to represent the United States at the Tokyo Exposition in 1912. The commissioners general will be Francis B. Loomis, former Assistant Secretary of State; Frederick J. V. Skiff, director of the Field Museum in Chicago, and Francis D. Millet, the well-known artist.

Barnum's Ratio Still Good.

Chicago people have just awakened to the fact that a $10,000,000 gold mine into which they have put $650,000 is worthless; but it is not believed that this experience will in anywise tend to diminish the regular one-a-minute birth ratio either there or elsewhere.—Indianapolis News.

STATE PRESS

EDITORIAL EXPRESSIONS ON THE SUBJECT OF THE PRIMARY.

Cheaper and Better.

Whatever arguments may be brought against it, it is quite likely that the primary will continue to be the party plan of Virginia Democrats. The opponents of the primary have brought against it what appear to be some powerful indictments until they are analyzed.

The assessments on the candidates entering any race for State honors are undeniably high, but whether the amount it is necessary to expend in this manner is any greater, or as great, in fact, as the sums formerly disbursed among the faithful by the candidates, is the question which has not yet been finally answered.

There are many who believe that if a full accounting could be had of any race under the old convention plan it would be found that the State primary is a bit cheaper and decidedly more satisfactory than the system formerly in vogue.—Portsmouth Star.

Blunder to Destroy Primary.

The Petersburg delegation to the Roanoke convention, headed by Hon. Francis Rives Lassiter, will advocate the return of the Democratic party in Virginia to the convention method of nominating State officers and members of the Federal House of Representatives. We think this to be one of those political blunders which almost reaches the dignity of a crime; but, at least, it serves to dissipate the contention of the Danville Register that advocacy of the primary system owes its inspiration to an officeholders' trust, of which the moving spirits are the Virginia Representatives in Congress.—Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

Not Perfect, But Best.

Perfection is not claimed for the primary system, nor has it obtained in Virginia long enough, since its formal adoption in the fall of 1901, to attain to flawlessness, were such a happy consummation possible. But we believe that the basic principles of the primary system are better than the convention plan and less liable of harmful results to the party. The primary is so closely allied in principle to the general elections that if the primary is wrong the elections are too. The primary gives to people at large a better chance to vote for their choice of men, for, while the skilful manipulator of parliamentary practice and wire-pulling is easily master in the convention hall, a battle of ballots (if battle there must be) gives to each man an equal chance against his opponent, which is not always true in the convention halls, where fluency of speech and a knowledge of the rules of the body often defeat the will of the people.—Tidewater News.

Improve the Plan.

Democrats of the State should be slow to listen to these appeals. The primary has serious defects, undoubtedly, but they are apparently not such as cannot be amended. At least an honest effort should be made to amend it, so that the plan may have a fair trial. This we trust the State convention now approaching may find time to do. We have not the remotest idea that the plan will be abolished in its entirety. But it should be improved.—Staunton Dispatch.

Has Come to Stay.

The present plan, although, generally speaking, it has worked admirably, may not, of course, be perfect, and it is always open to amendment and change; but that the primary principle for the selection of party candidates is the correct principle, cannot be successfully controverted. The primary has now become a fixed institution in nearly every State of the Union, but there are no two plans that are exactly similar. Like the Australian ballot system, now of almost universal application where the elective franchise prevails, but which nevertheless differs greatly in detail in different communities and countries, the primary system has come to stay.—Northern Neck News.

Fairest, But Too Costly.

There are some things about the primary we like. It's the fairest way, if honestly conducted, to get an expression of the will or choice of the people, but none but the wealthy can afford it.—South Boston News.

SUCCESS OF PROBATION.

Romish Idea of Purgatory Justified by Manhattan Experience.

The success of the system of releasing first offenders in charge of probation officers had a brilliant demonstration the other night in Manhattan.

Judge Rosalsky, of the General Sessions there, has an annual reception of the probationers, held at night, so that those at work can come with least inconvenience. At the latest of these annual reunions 280 probationers appeared out of 297 who had been released during two years. Of the seventeen who failed to come, five sent explanations which satisfied the probation officers; their whereabouts is known. That leaves twelve prisoners out of 297 who have drifted back into criminal living in two years. What would have happened had there been no probation system? If all these young men and women had been sentenced to the penitentiary or prison, or even reformatories, where association with older and more hardened criminals is inevitable, how many of them could have found work on the expiration of their sentences, and how many could have held their jobs had they found them?

It is well known that about the hardest thing in the world is to find work for an ex-convict. Stories get into the papers almost every week of men who have lost place after place when their prison record has become known. Even where employers give work to such men, knowing all the facts, the story of the prison service not infrequently drives the man from his position, because those with whom he is called upon to have relations distrust him or make his life unbearable. There seems to be little difficulty in securing work for first offenders released on probation, and several employers came to court with their charges to bear witness to their good conduct. Some of the young women probationers have been married to men who knew the facts and who came to court with them to certify to their reformation.

Of these 297 first offenders less than 5 per cent. have become criminals. More than 95 per cent. have returned to self-supporting and self-respecting citizenship. About one-sixth of the company were discharged by the judge on their records from the duty of further reporting. That means a clean bill of health and a return to normal living for those who have stood in the shadow of prison and of a criminal career. The real problem is not the punishment of criminals, but the prevention of crime. Nothing ever devised shuts off so much crime as its source or does so much to keep people out of jail as this system of probation. Its success is so well assured that it will be impossible to displace it from our criminal laws.—Brooklyn Eagle.

THE SOUTH'S GREAT NEED.

Harvard's Income Greater Than That of All Southern Colleges.

The Rev. Dr. Lee, of Atlanta, said in a late address that the South is the richest twenty-four millions of human beings under the sun in the elements that go to make wealth. He recited at length the great array of figures which prove that statement, figures which have appeared in the News repeatedly and which have been employed to remind other sections of the United States that the South has not only a magnificent future, but has an equally imposing present.

But Dr. Lee faces another fact which he says is not of less importance, but rather of more than the facts of material greatness which are within the grasp of the South. On the side of education he insists that the South is so poor that the bones are almost breaking through the skin. Harvard University has a larger annual income than the total revenue of all the colleges and universities of the South put together. But ten millions of dollars in benefits alone have gone to colleges in that part of the Union at the same time that hundreds of millions have gone into Northern and Western institutions of learning.

The South, according to George Hager, has received less than 2 per cent. of the $500,000,000 of money given for education in the United States in the last fifteen years. It is the problem of the South, as Dr. Lee maintains, to devote a larger share than formerly of its energy and income to the education of the whole people, white and black alike. He holds that the 10,000,000 colored people in the South will continue to be a source of irritation and friction in proportion to the number of illiterate white people in the population. He says that the educated classes owned the negro before the war and are still his best friends just as they were before. The negro understands the educated white, and the educated white understands the negro, and the solution of the so-called negro problem is education of the white people first.—Buffalo News.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EYE.

Superstition That Retina Held Last Seen Image.

The grossest superstitions die just as hard as those which have some finer points to smooth over their grip upon the human mind. In an Illinois town the authorities propose to take a picture of a murdered young woman's eye in the belief that the portrait of the murderer will be found on the retina. The age of this superstition is uncertain, but it has lived a long time. Belief in it is not so widespread as it once was, however, but that men of supposed intelligence intend to act upon it is not a wreath upon their intellectual progress.

The picture upon the retina of a dead person's eye superstition may have come from the fact that pictures may be made employing the eye for a lens, but this is scarcely probable. To men who still believe that the picture of the last object seen by the human eye before its owner expires, the mystery of chemistry and photography is as deep to-day as before its working formulae were made known by the early investigators. It is nothing to such men as those Illinois police authorities that the eye is simply a lens itself which only transmits light. They would never dream of trying to get a picture on any other lens, one made of glass, for instance, for they know that the picture is not made upon the lens. But bowing their knees to superstition, they publicly declare they expect to find a picture of this young woman's murderer visible upon the retina of her eyes.

It is when reading such feats as this that one is most inclined to admit that the need of technical education is indeed great.—Pittsburg Leader.

TAFT ON GRANT.

Blundering and Unpalatable Part of Secretary's Oration.

It was true, said Secretary Taft, that Grant was educated at West Point, but certainly nothing was developed in him to indicate his fitness or ability for great responsibilities. He did well in the Mexican War, as did other lieutenants. "But in 1854 he resigned from the army because he had to. He had yielded to the weakness of a taste for strong drink, and rather than be court-martialed he left the army. He returned to his family without money, without property, a disheartened man. He worked at farming, but gave it up because of ill health. He failed in the real estate business. He was clerk in his father's store at Galena, and then worked at St. Louis. During these seven years, though everything looked dark, he overcame in a great measure his weakness for strong drink. But he was so constituted that it seemed impossible for him to earn a livelihood even when he had given hostages to fortune in the shape of a wife and four children."

Perhaps this is all true; and it is possible only to presume that Mr. Taft supposed that by bringing it afresh to public attention—it is not in the books, and has been unknown generally to the present generation—he might by the contrast make Grant's later glory the more impressive. But the language as coming from the Secretary of War was remarkable—surprising for its inexpediency, for its questionable taste, if nothing else. Through all history the world's illustrious men have had their weaknesses, no doubt, but the world has been content to let their failings be obscured by the brilliancy of their achievements. General Grant was the nation's first soldier in its time of direst need. He was twice its elected President. His grateful country can well afford to forget what may in his life have been unworthy of him, while remembering his inestimable services.—Buffalo Courier.

WEARY OF PLATT.

Movement to Get Superfluous Actor Off Stage.

There is a growing agitation in New York State designed to persuade or compel Thomas C. Platt to resign his seat in the United States Senate.

In 1881 this same Thomas C. Platt was a member of the United States Senate and resigned, as Me-Too to Roscoe Conkling. In the midst of the agitation ensuing, and while the two men were moving heaven and earth to obtain a "vindication" in the shape of a re-election, a woman appeared in the story, along with locked doors, transom windows, spies, detectives and bellboys. Platt failed of election that time, but he got it afterward. The people of New York knew all about him then. The Mae Wood of 1881 was just as conspicuous as the Mae Wood of 1908. If such scandals are so distasteful to New Yorkers, why didn't they send the man about his business once for all? Instead, they let him slink back and again disgrace himself and the State.

We hear much of the power of the boss, but no boss is powerful enough to get the better of a people determined to be politically well served, and awake to their own community interest and reputation. Platt will probably not flumor the New Yorkers by gratifying their modest wishes. He got all he wanted in the way of resignation in 1881.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

TAG DAY.

Boston Editor Deplores Evil Tendencies.

The institution of "Tag Day," which has been employed in Philadelphia and some other cities to raise money for public purposes, worthy in themselves, is one that we hope will be shortlived, though it is proposed to introduce it in Springfield next month, under the somewhat more dignified title of "Charity Day." The method peculiar to it is to pin upon the wayfarer a tag representing the amount for which he is held up and assessed. The Philadelphia Ledger, after the experience in that city, hopes that nothing like it will ever be tried again. It is like the importunity at a church fair, with the difference that in the former only those who voluntarily put themselves within range are victimized, while "Tag Day" levies on the general public indiscriminately. It is an annoyance to those waylaid and it is a questionable service in which to enlist young women who are the preferred agents in this business. The freedom with strangers which its successful exploitation necessitates has a demoralizing tendency. The organization which proposes to try it on Springfield promises to conduct its solicitations in a dignified and not unduly forward manner, but the zeal of its agents cannot be controlled. It is a false principle of appeal and its abuse is inevitable.—Boston Transcript.

Slow Count.

It will be a long time at the present rate of progress before it is decided whether McClellan or Hearst was legally Mayor of New York. We have always had the very highest regard for Mayor McClellan, but his attempt to retain his office, regardless of the verdict of the ballots, has caused us to wonder what kind of honesty controls him. While William R. Hearst is not fitted to be Mayor, if he had a plurality of the votes he ought to be seated. The few boxes that have been opened show gross irregularities, and if these continue it is easily possible that Hearst was elected, but counted out.—Springfield Union.

Londoners' Delight.

One is sometimes tempted to envy Londoners. With all their urban delights, they are so near other joys, too. It seemed curious to hear the first cuckoo and see the first swallow so near Charing Cross as Kew Gardens, yet that was my experience this year, and, passing by a clump of fine trees, there on a great platform of reeds and sticks was a stork, placidly sitting on her eggs and looking quite at home.—Manchester Guardian.

When America Is Grown

AGRICULTURE

BY FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

When the United States reaches the full measure of its growth as a nation, it will depend for its life upon the farm and the farmer. The farm is the great laboratory where sun, rain, soil, seed and labor are compounded in the proper proportions to make the food which is necessary to life and the raiment which is necessary to civilization. In the remaining nine decades of the century the farmer will progress more rapidly than any other representative of American life. The achievements of the American farmer have already revolutionized the life of the human race, and he is but upon the threshold of his career. When "Adam delved and Eve span" they used practically the same tools and methods which are still employed by the greater number of the farmers of the world. Artificial irrigation came with Egyptian civilization, and artificial fertilization was discovered ages ago. But for 4,000 years the art of agriculture—most important of all arts—was at a standstill.

Then came the American farmer. He owned his own land, his European forebears were peasant tenants. He owned as much land as a baron in Europe. He had to till it all with his own labor and that of his sons. This was the necessity which was the mother of the inventions of labor-saving farm machinery. The American farm machinery agent has gone into every country of the world and has carried revolution with him. To the triumphs in this field, the American farmer is adding the victories of science over ignorance. His future is big with progress.

The United States has a total area of about 2,600,000,000 acres. If 1,000,-000,000 be set aside for cities, towns, mines, factories and other non-farming land, there will remain a balance of 950,000,000 acres. This is almost three times as much land as the farmer of to-day uses in growing the foodstuff for the people of the United States and many of those of Europe. By extension of present methods of farming to all this available acreage, the United States in the year 2000 will be able to grow all the foodstuff necessary for its 385,000,000 people. But the present spirit of progress is not content with merely extending present methods to a greater acreage. The American farmer is determined to make "two blades of grass grow where one grew before," to make one blade of grass grow where none grows now.

Secretary of Agriculture Wilson and that wizard of the soil, Luther Burbank, agree that the progress made by the American farmer in the past forty years is as nothing to what will be done in the years to come. Toward the end of this century the farmer will be the best educated man in America. He will be a chemist with knowledge to enable him to so handle his soils, his fertilizers and his foodstuffs as to make them yield the maximum of profit. He will be a botanist with knowledge to enable him to take advantage of the laws of heredity to breed disease-resisting and frost-resisting plants. He will keep pace with every movement of the scientific world which can be turned to his advantage. He will be able greatly to increase the quantity and quality of his wheat and corn, vegetables and fruit, cotton and wool, without having to add a single acre to his field.

But suppose this forward movement is slower than now seems probable; suppose the average farmer of ninety years hence does only as well as the best farmers of to-day. Even that would mean the increase of the present yield of corn from 3,000,000,000 to 7,000,000,000 bushels a year, on the present acreage. The average wheat land in this country now yields fifteen bushels per acre. Yet there are to-day many farmers who are producing forty-five bushels an acre on land that forty years ago was considered rich when it gave an average of fifteen bushels.

Leaving aside the wonderful improvement in the heredity of the plant-life stock, which is helping the farmer every day, the development of the science of soil chemistry is certain to add to the power of the farmer's arm. Growing crops need certain chemical foods just as much as human beings do. Our chemical diet is taken as compounded into bread and meat. The bill of fare for the plants is more candid and there must be nitrogen, potash and phosphorus. The needs of different soils and of various plants differ just as the requirements of animals differ. The advanced farmer of to-day, aided and abetted by "Uncle Jimmy" Wilson's bright young men, is studying the needs of his soil and the appetite of his crops.

Commercial fertilizers will supply the demands of the plants for suitable food. The right kind of fertilizer will be applied, and the result will be uniformly helpful. The cost of fertilizers will be decreased. The tobacco-grower must needs give his plants potash. To-day the potash comes from German mines and costs 7 cents a pound. A new way has been found to obtain a supply from our granite mountains by the simple process of grinding the rocks to a powder to be sold at 1 1-2 cents a pound. Granite grown tobacco is a commercial success in Virginia fields to-day, as it was a scientific success in the Department of Agriculture experiment stations two years ago. Nitrogen is everywhere present in the air, but until lately it was necessary to employ nitrate of soda as a means of getting it into the soil if there wasn't time to devote a year to growing clover to be plowed under. The nitrate came from South America and was expensive. Now the waters of Niagara move the wheels of the machinery which captures the nitrogen from the air and imprisons it in cotton sacks to be sent out to the farmer who needs it.

The ninety years are certain to reveal other great economies, of which the average farmer of to-day does not dream. There are probably 25,000,000 horses and mules in this country for which there will be no need in the good year 2000. The cheaper and stronger machine will drive the horse and the mule from the fields. This movement is already beginning. The millions of animals whose usefulness will have ceased before 2000 now consume each year the products of 75,-000,000 acres of land. If devoted to potatoes this land would yield three times the present total world crop. Under the most advanced of modern conditions these acres could be made to support 50,000,000 cows—enough to give a quart of milk a day to every one of the 385,000,000 people we will have when America is grown.

By the elimination of the horse and the utilization of the swamp lands, the farming acreage of the country can be doubled without touching the forests or other idle lands of the country. If but one-half of the land be counted as available for farms, ninety years hence there will be five acres for every two persons in the country, something more than five times what the Chinese have now.

There are indications that the demand upon the farms will change in character. While the American people are not likely to become strict vegetarians within the space of ninety years, they probably will each much less meat in proportion to population than they now consume. Medical science and economy will unite to bring about changed conditions on this line. It has been demonstrated that for every bit bit of animal food eaten there is a vegetable counterpart. Vegetarian races have a capacity for endurance which equals, if it does not surpass, that of the meat-eaters. The economist will urge that the "fast motion" expended in growing cattle for food be conserved.

We eat porterhouse steaks at 25 cents a pound when we might buy beans at 4 cents a pound, and there is more nutrition in the pound of beans than in the pound of beef. It requires four years to grow a single good beef steer. Under the most favorable conditions it requires the products of six acres of land for one summer to make him ready for the block. When prepared for the table his flesh will furnish a single meal for about 1,500 persons. The same six acres of ground would have grown enough beans to feed 45,000 people one meal. And the bean-eaters would have derived more strength and nourishment from their food than the beef-eaters.

The mathematical theories of the economist are never realized in actual life, and never will be, but there is no doubt that the American people in the coming ninety years will learn to save much that now goes to waste. The housewives of the American farm, throw away more cooked food each year than is consumed by their sisters of Russia. Who has not sat at the board of a farmer upon which was heaped enough food for a company of soldiers? Such wanton waste as that will be stopped.

Another great saving that is coming will be brought about by better knowledge of the science of cooking. The farmer's wife of the latter end of the century will prepare her meals or an electric range—wood is too valuable to burn—and she will prepare only enough for the needs of her family. The food will be better prepared than it is nowadays in the average home, and its wholesomeness will make more of it available for the uses of the body. A little well-cooked food is better than much poorly-cooked food. The girls of the next fin-de-siecle period will be taught to cook scientifically, and they will be taught how not to waste.

Long before the year 2000 rolls around the farmer will have reached a position of social and economic dignity which will have stopped the eager race from the farm to the city which is now the curse of so many thousands of young men. In that day the colleges and universities will devote more attention to training the essential agriculturist than to turning out the nonessential lawyer. With a good education; with the word brought to his dooryard through the agency of electricity; with his command of the financial situation through his co-operation with his fellows—the farmer of the year 2000 will be the foremost man in our full-grown republic.

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To-morrow—When America Is Grown.—Manufactures.